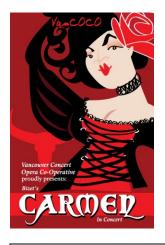
MEDIA RELEASE

April 13, 2011

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Vancouver Concert Opera Co-Operative presents

Carmen (In Concert)

By George Bizet
Based on the novella by Prosper Mérimée
Conducted by Robert Ashens
Narration by Bernard Cuffling

May 14, 2011 IN VANCOUVER – ONE PERFORMANCE ONLY May 22, 2011 IN VICTORIA – ONE PERFORMANCE ONLY

IN BRIEF: Vancouver Concert Opera Co-Operative presents an **encore performance** of *Carmen* at Canadian Memorial United in Vancouver (15th & Burrard) on May 14, 2011 at 7:30pm and at St. Andrew's Presbyterian in Victoria (Douglas & Broughton) on May 22, 2011 @ 4:30pm. Opera "in-concert" sung in French with English narration. Advance tickets are \$18 and \$22 and can be purchased online at vancoco.ca. CASH ONLY (\$21 and \$25) at the door.

VANCOUVER, B.C. — Back by popular demand! January's sold-out performance was described as "riveting, passionate, poignant and totally satisfying" (Opera Canada 2011). "Love is a rebellious bird that no one can tame ... He has never known law. If you don't love me I love you, if I love you watch yourself!" The story is set in Seville, Spain, and concerns the eponymous Carmen (Natalie Burdeny), a beautiful Gypsy with a fiery temper. Free with her love, she woos the corporal Don José (Eric Olsen), an inexperienced soldier. Their relationship leads to his rejection of his former love Micaela (Arianna Sovernigo), mutiny against his superior, and joining a gang of smugglers. His jealousy when she turns from him to the bullfighter Escamillo (Andrey Andreychik) leads him to murder Carmen.

Vancouver Concert Opera Co-Operative ("VanCOCO") is *"all about the music"*. We offer unique in-concert operatic experiences to our audiences, focussing solely on the beauty of the music. As a co-operative, we gather teams of creative minds, seasoned industry professionals, and topnotch vocalists to produce events that bring the highest standard of musical excellence to the concert stage.

Conducted by Robert Ashens | Piano Accompaniment by Kinza Tyrrell | Narration by Jessie Award Winning Actor Bernard Cuffling | Starring Natalie Burdeny (Contralto), Eric Olsen (Tenor), Arianna Sovernigo (Soprano), Andrey Andreychik (Baritone), Peter Alexander (Bass-Baritone), Kathleen Morrison (Soprano), Jeanine Fynn (Mezzo-Soprano), Ed Moran (Baritone), and Andrzej Jeziorski (Tenor) | Stage Manager Matthew Bissett | Assistant Stage Manager Wayne Gilbart | Poster Design Jana Curll